

Application No. 09/909,934

Filed: July 20, 2001

TC Art Unit: 2827

Confirmation No.: 2402

REMARKS

Claim 2 has been amended. Claims 1-7 are pending.

The amendments presented herein are believed to place this application in form for allowance by addressing issues raised in the final Office Action. Additionally, it is believed that these amendments do not raise any new issues. Therefore, entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Figure 2 was objected to regarding reference number 15. Figure 2 has been revised to include reference numbers 15, 17 and 18 pointing to respective rows on the periphery of the lead frame 1, as requested in the Office Action. The text of the specification has been amended to reflect the new reference numbers. No new matter has been introduced. It is believed that these amendments are sufficient to overcome the objection under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4).

In the Office Action, claim 2 was objected to for missing a comma. Claim 2 has been amended to address this objection.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Golz, DE 100 14 306 A1. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Golz reference does not constitute prior art as to the present application, either under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or any other

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provision of the patent statute, Title 35. 35 U.S.C. §102(e) refers only to previously-filed U.S. patent applications and international (PCT) applications, and thus clearly cannot define a published German application as prior art. It is further noted that the publication date of this document is October 4, 2001, which is later than the filing date of the present application. Although there appears to be a counterpart U.S. patent (6,563,201 cited in the form PTO 892 accompanying the Office Action), the U.S. filing date of March 23, 2001 is later than the priority date of September 13, 2000 to which the present application is entitled. Finally, the mere filing of the German application in Germany, which occurred on March 23, 2000, does not give that application prior art status under any provision of 35 U.S.C. § 102 in the present proceedings. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is not properly founded, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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Based on the foregoing, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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